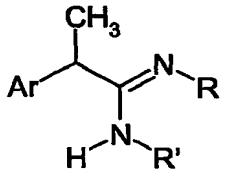
CLAIMS

1. Amidines of formula (I)



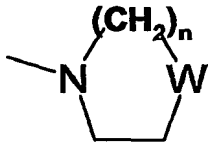
(I)

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein Ar is a phenyl group non-substituted or substituted by one or more groups independently selected from halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, hydroxy, C_1-C_4-acyloxy, phenoxy, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-acylamino, halogen-C_1-C_3-alkyl, halogen C_1-C_3-alkoxy, benzoyl or a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6 membered heteroaryl ring selected from pyridine, pyrrole, tiofene, furane, indole.

R is selected from

- H, C_1-C_5-alkyl, phenyl, C_1-C_5-phenyalkyl, C_1-C_5-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_5-alkenyl, C_1-C_5-alkoxy;
- a residue of formula $-(CH_2)n$-NRaRb wherein n is an integer from 0 to 5 and each Ra and Rb, which may be the same or different, are C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_6-alkenyl or, alternatively, Ra and Rb, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a heterocycle from 3 to 7 members of formula (II),

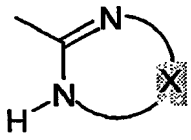


(II)

wherein W represents a single bond, O, S, N-Rc, Rc being H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or C_1-C_6-alkylphenyl.

R' is H, CH_3, CH_2CH_3.

R and R' can alternatively, form a heterocycle from 5 to 7 members of formula (III),



(III)

wherein X represents a residue -O(CH_2)n- wherein n is an integer from 1 to 3, or a residue -(CH_2)n- wherein n is an integer from 2 to 4, or the ethylene residue –CH=CH-.

2. Compounds according to Claim 1, wherein Ar is selected from 3'-benzoylphenyl, 3'-(4-chloro-benzoyl)-phenyl, 3'-(4-methyl-benzoyl)-phenyl, 3'-acetyl-phenyl, 3'-propionyl-phenyl, 3'-isobutanoyl-phenyl, 4'-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy-phenyl, 4'-benzenesulfonyloxy-phenyl, 4'-trifluoromethanesulfonylamino-phenyl, 4'-benzenesulfonylamino-phenyl, 4'-benzenesulfonylmethyl-phenyl, 4'-acetoxyphenyl, 4'-propionyloxy-phenyl, 4'-benzoyloxy-phenyl, 4'acetylamino-phenyl, 4'propionylamino-phenyl, 4'-benzoylamino-phenyl.

3. Compounds according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein R is selected from
- hydrogen
- a residue of formula –(CH_2)$_n$-NRaRb, wherein n is an integer from 2 to 3 and the group NRaRb is selected from N,N-dimethylamine or 1-piperidyl, and R' is H, or R and R' form a heterocycle of formula (III), where X represents a residue -O(CH_2)n- wherein n is the integer 1 or 2, or a residue -(CH_2)$_2$.

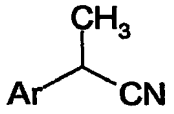
4. Compounds according to Claim 1 to 3 selected from:
(R,S) (2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride
(+) (2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride
(-) (2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride
(R,S) 2-(3-benzoylphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride
(R,S) 2-[(3-fluoro-4-phenyl)phenyl]propionamidine hydrochloride
(R,S) 2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxyphenyl)propionamidine hydrochloride
(R,S) 2-(5-benzoyl-2-thiophene)propionamidine hydrochloride
(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-N-[3"-(N'-piperidino)propyl]propionamidine dihydrochloride
(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-N-methyl-propionamidine hydrochloride
(R,S) 2-(3-benzoylphenyl)- N-[3-(N,N-dimethylamino)propyl]propionamidine hydrochloride
(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionamidine acetate salt
(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-N-[3-(N,N-dimethylamino)propyl] propionamidine

(R,S) 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)-N-benzyl propionamidine

(R,S) 3-[1-(4-isobutylphenyl)ethyl]-5,6-dihydro-2H-1,2,4-oxadiazine

(R,S) 2-[1-(4-isobutylphenyl)ethyl]-4,5-dihydro-2H-1,3,imidazole.

5. Process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) according to claim 1 comprising the reaction of a nitrile derivate of formula (IV),



(IV)

wherein Ar has the same meaning as defined in claim 1, with an amine of formula NHR, wherein R has the same meaning as defined in claim 1.

6. Process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) according to claim 1, wherein R and R' groups form an heterocycle of formula (III), comprising the reaction of amidines of formula (I) wherein R' is H and R is H or OH, with a reagent of formula L-K-L', in the presence of a base, wherein L and L' are leaving groups, and, when R and R' are both H, K represents a residue -(CH_2)n- wherein n is an integer from 2 to 4; when R is OH and R' is H, K represents a residue -(CH_2)n- wherein n is an integer from 1 to 3.

7. Compounds according to any of Claims 1 to 4, for use as medicaments.

8. Compounds according to claim 7 for use as inhibitors of IL-8 induced human PMNs chemotaxis.

9. Use of compounds according to any of Claims 1 to 4 in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, melanoma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bullous pemphigo, rheumatoid arthritis, idiopathic fibrosis, glomerulonephritis and in the prevention and treatment of damages caused by ischemia and reperfusion.

10. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound according to Claims 1 to 4 in admixture and a suitable carrier thereof.